

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

*Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalaenæ in the British Museum.*  
 Vol. VII. *Noctuidæ.* By Sir GEORGE F. HAMPSON, Bart. Printed  
 by Order of the Trustees. 8vo. London, 1908. Pp. xv, 709.  
 Plates cviii.-cxxii. & 184 Text-illustrations. Price: Text 17s.,  
 Atlas 13s.

THE seventh volume of this great work, or the fourth of the *Noctuidæ*, includes the first of three volumes to be devoted to the subfamily *Acronyctinæ*, and includes descriptions of 843 species, divided into 96 genera, a considerable number of both genera and species being here described as new. The *Acronyctinæ*, as here employed, are characterized in Mr. C. O. Waterhouse's Preface "by the trifold neuration of the hind wing combined with spineless tibiæ and smooth eyes not surrounded by bristle-like hairs, and it is the least specialised of the subfamilies of the *Noctuidæ* *Trifinæ*."

How completely the classification of the *Noctuidæ* has been revolutionized of late years may be seen by the number of well-known genera now included in the *Acronyctinæ*, but referred by previous authors to *Apamidæ*, *Cosmidæ*, *Hadenidæ*, *Amphipyridæ*, &c. Among these we may note the genera *Amphipyra*, *Mania*, *Dipterygia*, *Trachea*, *Euplexia*, *Perigea*, *Eremobia*, *Luperina*, *Trigonophora*, *Eriopus*, and *Thalpophila*.

But while entomologists may congratulate themselves on living at a time when it is possible for so extensive and elaborate a work to be published, they must not forget that it has been led up to by the labours of a long series of previous authors, without which its inception and fulfilment would have been impossible. It may be well to remember that the last complete *Catalogue of Moths* by Francis Walker was published by the British Museum in thirty-five volumes from 1854 to 1866, and though out of print and out of date at the present time, was of great value when it appeared, notwithstanding numerous defects and errors, if only as a compendium of the then existing literature of the subject. Whether thirty-five volumes will now suffice to complete the much more elaborate work undertaken by Sir G. F. Hampson is hardly to be expected; but we hope the author will succeed in completing at least the groups including the larger moths, in which he has already made such good progress, before the advance of old age necessitates his resigning the remainder of the work to other hands.